

Dietra Kulicke, Chestnut Health Systems

Chestnut Health Systems offers a comprehensive scope of behavioral health and human services in Illinois.

We are a provider of mental health services in Madison and St. Clare County, the Metro East St. Louis, area as well as in Bloomington, Illinois. We are a large provider of addiction services for both adolescents and adults. We have some additional services our newest product line is our community family practice or community health center that I run. It is an ambulatory primary care practice that is working with patients who are from the community but who may also be served through one of the other Chestnut programs. I give you that background because Chestnut is very excited to participate in and support the State in efforts to create mechanisms that will enhance communication and collaboration across all providers regardless of specialty who are serving shared patients.

We are a mission driven organization. We are committed to making a difference in the lives of the patients that we serve by improving quality of life through excellence in service. Our commitment to our clients and that excellence in service is driven by integration. It is very important to us; we can no longer operate in silos. The quality of care provided to patients is reliant on a multi-disciplinary team approach supported through electronic exchanges.

I would also like to say that as I listened to Vicki from OSF talk this morning, we could not have prepared a better speech and we whole-heartedly from the behavioral side support everything that Vicki said.

Thank you